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Item 4 of the provisional agenda of the
Standing Committee

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1991, INCLUDING FIELD VISITS TO TAKE PLACE IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1991

Field visits

Note by the Administrator

1. At its organizational meeting for 1991, by decision 91/2 A of 22 February 1991, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) decided on the mandate and working arrangements of the Standing Committee for Programme Matters. In paragraphs 7 to 11, 13 and 14 of that decision, the Council set forth the manner in which regular field visits of its members would be organized.

2. The Governing Council decided that the Standing Committee for Programme Matters, for information purposes, should request the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to arrange and service up to four field visits per year, each for an average of six members of the Council. The Standing Committee is also to decide on specific programme aspects that the field visits should address. The Standing Committee, in selecting the participants for these field visits, is to take into account equitable representation of the membership of the Council and invite the participants to take an active part in the preparation of the visits and in the work of the Committee during the presentation of the findings of the field visits, and at the subsequent meeting.

3. The Governing Council also decided that no more than two countries should be visited during each of the field visits organized. Both the selection of the countries to be visited and the timing of the visits should be determined

in consultation with the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA, as well as the Governments of the proposed countries to be visited.

4. With respect to financial arrangements, the Governing Council decided, in paragraph 13 of decision 91/2 A, that participation in field visits should be facilitated by providing funding for travel and per diem out of the administrative budgets of UNDP and UNFPA. At the same time, the Council invited all donor countries, as well as other countries in a position to do so, to pay for their own participation in the field visits.

5. On the basis of that decision of the Governing Council, and in consultation with the Executive Director of UNFPA, the Administrator proposes the following arrangements for field visits during 1991.

6. Concerning specific programme aspects to be addressed during the field visits, the Administrator recommends that consideration be given to the experience gained by introducing national execution and implementation. Given the importance of this subject, the fact that the Governing Council will be discussing it at its forthcoming session in June 1991 and the fact that national execution and implementation are related to a number of other operational issues such as the programme approach and successor arrangements to support costs, it is suggested that experience with national execution be the subject of a number of field visits in succession.

7. The Administrator proposes that two field visits be undertaken during the remainder of 1991, and that both visits take place in the first half of October. One visit is proposed to two countries in Asia and the second to two countries in Latin America. Based on consultations currently under way with the Governments concerned, the Administrator will present, during the inter-sessional meeting of the Standing Committee for Programme Matters, a proposal regarding the countries to be visited.